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Message Text

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14
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 OES-06 FEA-01 /097 W
---------- 119749
R 130741Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4854

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EINV, ENRG, AG, UK, US
SUBJECT: PROPOSED SONATRACH TAKING OF CONCH SHARES IN CAMEL

1. CANADIAN EMBOFFS HAVE PASSED ALONG REPORT THAT CANADIAN COMPANY IN ALGIERS SINCE 1933, WHICH WAS 51 PERCENT NATIONALIZED FIVE YEARS AGO (PAID FOR IN FULL ONLY THIS YEAR AND IN TOKEN AMOUNT), WAS INFORMED TEN DAYS AGO THAT GOA PREPARING NATIONALIZE REMAINING 49 PERCENT.

2. EXPLANATION GIVEN TO CANADIANS WAS THAT MOVE WAS POLITICAL DECISION TAKEN BY HIGHEST GOA AUTHORITIES (BELIEVED TO BE MINISTER INDUSTRY AND ENERGY ABDESSELAM) ON BASIS OF READING THAT NEW NATIONAL CHARTER REQUIRES FULL ALGERIAN CONTROL OF PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES.

3. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER PROJECTED NATIONALIZATIONS; SOCIALIST THRUST OF CHARTER LEADS IN SUCH DIRECTION BUT TIMING WIDE OPEN. STRESS ON "PRODUCTIVE ENTERPRISES" WOULD EXEMPT MANY JOINT VENTURES AND CANADIANS BELIEVE GOA FOCUSING ON THOSE ENTERPRISES ESTABLISHED BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

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4. WE CANNOT SAY WHETHER ALGERIANS THINKING

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IN SAME TERMS RE CONCH BUT ALGERIAN APPROACH TO CANADIANS MAY
PROVIDE THEM WITH ADDITIONAL RHETORIC IN DISCUSSIONS.PARKER

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NNN

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